

Aliens

[πάροικος~ *par'-oy-kos*]

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were no people but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy.

¹¹ Beloved, I beseech you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh that wage war against your soul. ¹² Maintain good conduct among the Gentiles, so that in case they speak against you as wrongdoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

[RSV] 1 Peter 2:9-12

We hear much about people who are not living in their own nation, having moved to another place that is not their original home. The term used is ALIEN, and much division has come in our country because of the unhindered migration we see in our day.

Migration is not a new experience; it has been around since the beginning of time. The fact is that migration is something that God commanded to our first parents.

They heard the command of God, "*Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth ...*" [Genesis 1:28] That filling of the earth could happen in no way other than by some type of migration.

As those migrations happened the travelers became ALIENS in a land that was new to them. They weren't living in their homeland, they were moving to a new place, and that was what God had commanded.

Moving to a new place is never a very easy nor is it a comfortable experience. Often the climate is different, plants and animals may be quite strange, and the culture of the current residents can be quite unsettling.

In both the Old and New Testaments the word ALIEN is used numerous times and speaks of people who are in a place that is not

their permanent dwelling.

Other words used to describe people in this situation include *strangers, sojourners, foreigners, exiles, and pilgrims.*

For those of us who believe in and seek to follow Jesus, it is hard to understand that we who have lived our entire lives in the United States are really living here as "RESIDENT ALIENS."

We read in Genesis that Abraham traveled through Canaan and lived as an alien. The first land he owned was a small plot to bury his wife, Sarah.

He was an alien in the land God had promised to his descendants. Living as aliens was a reality for more than 400 years in Egypt; Abraham's descendants existing as slaves to the whims of the pharaohs.

The captives in Babylon (after the fall of Israel & Judah) lived for 70 years as aliens. After a while the people became used to living in a place that was not really their home. Some wanted to go back to Jerusalem, for others they were just comfortable in a country and a culture that was far less than God's plan for them.

Peter writes to the Believers of his day, and to followers of Jesus in our day with a reminder of the truth from eternity: "*This World Is Not My Home, I'm Just A Passin' Through!*"

God has called us to an eternal promise and to an eternal kingdom. We are reminded:

- + We are a Chosen Race!
- + We are a Holy Nation!
- + We are God's own people!
- + We are called into His light!
- + We are people of God's mercy!

Don't get your hopes too focused on the success, the glory and the righteousness in this world, they will always disappoint. But God's Eternal Promise Won't Disappoint, He Will Not Fail. His kingdom is forever. Amen

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